Computerised Rail Booking Centre in KullivManali

† 2246. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways had decided to establish a computerised rail ticket booking centre in the district headquarters of Kullu or Manali in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, when and the reasons for not establishing the said centre so far; and

(c) by when the centre is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work for provision of computerised reservation facility was sanctioned in the year 1998-99. However, the facility would be commissioned as soon as the required infrastructure and facilities are provided by Himachal Pradesh Government.

The centre can be commissioned only after provision of built up space and infrastructure by the State Government.

Harassment of SOST Employees in Central Railway

2247. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received information from All India Depressed Classes Federation, Nagpur, regarding the alleged harassment of SOST employees in Central Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that even after fifty years of our Constitution, which not only bans discrimination against SOST communities but also guarantees protection of their life, such deplorable attitute in Central Services still exists;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) what steps have been taken by Government against this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes Sir, a representation dated 8.5.2001 addressed to Divisional Railway Manager/Nagpur DivisionCentral Railway was received from the All India Depressed Classes Federation, regarding alleged harassment of employees belonging to SOST communities working on Nagpur Division of Central Railway.

(b) No Sir, there is no discrimination against the railway employees belonging to SOST communities. The said Federation have cited four specific cases in support of their contention.

Out of these cases, one is regarding removal from service of Shri T. P. Gaikwad, Deputy Station Superintendent, Wardha for a serious misconduct on account of joint complaint by staff followed by due procedure under Discipline and Appeal Rules (DAR).

The second case is of transfer of Shri B. T. Atram, Station Master, Ballarshah which was ultimately cancelled on humanitarian considerations.

The third case is of transfer of Shri B. N. Tayade, Station Manager, Pulgaon to Nagpur on his own request and not to harass him as alleged.

The fourth case is of Shri H. S. Khichi, Station Master, Teegaon, against whom, during his service, '26' minor penalty charges were issued and one major penalty case is still pending for being responsible for derailment at Teegaon Station.

Since transfers/disciplinary actions are normal administrative actions, the same cannot be construed as harassment.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.